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Message Text

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61
ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 SP-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 INR-05

INRE-00 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SCA-01 SSO-00

CCO-00 USSS-00 SY-02 A-01 OPR-01 SCS-01 /042 W
---------- 103481
Z O 282215Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0110
INFO USCINCSO
DOD/DIA WASHDC
DA (TPMG)//DAPM-CPA//

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 1409

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AR
SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF US OFFICIAL: SITREP NO. 20

REF: STATE 045328

1. AMBASSADOR RETURNED AT 1800 FROM ALL AFTERNOON CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES, AMBASSADOR MOLINA SALAS AND OTHER GOA OFFICIALS, LATER IN AFTERNOON INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA JOINED GROUP. CONVERSATION WAS UNSATISFACTORY IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS. AMBASSADOR HAD IMPRESSION THAT GOA OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED THAT MONTONEROS WILL NOT ASSASSINATE EGAN TONIGHT AS THREATENED. ANSWERS, GEARED TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. GOA IS DOING EVERYTING POSSIBLE TO LOCATE EGAN AND TO SAVE HIS LIFE. ENTIRE POLICE FORCE IN CORDOBA IS INVOLVED IN MASSIVE DRAGNET OPERATION. GOA WILL NOT, HOWEVER, DEAL WITH TERRORISTS. IN ORDER TO STALL FOR TIME, GOA PLANS TO ISSUE STATEMENT DURING NEXT HOUR INDICATING THAT THE FOUR INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN COMMUNI-QUE ARE NOT IN GOVERNMENT CUSTODY. STATEMENT WILL ADD THAT EVEN
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IF THEY WERE, GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ACCEDE TO TERRORIST DEMANDS.

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MINITERS NOTED THAT POLICY OF NOT NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS
WAS SAME AS U.S.

3. GOA DOES NOT HAVE CHANNLE THROUGH WHICH TO COMMUNICATE WITH
MONTONEROS. MINISTER OF INTERIOR ADDED THAT EVEN IF THEY HAD
SUCH A CHANNEL, THEY WOULD NOT USE IT, SINCE TO DO SO WOULD BE
TANTAMOUNT TO OPENING DIALOGUE WITH TERRORISTS.

4. GOA WOULD NOT CONSIDER PROPOSING PRESENTATION OF OTHER
PRISONERS OR TO GIVING PUBLICITY TO MONTONERO CAUSE IN EXCHANGE
FOR EGAN'S FREEDOM.

5. TWO MINISTERS CALLED FEDERAL INTERVENTOR LACABANNE IN PRE-
SENCE OF AMBASSADOR HILL TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT POLICE IN CORDOBA
ARE SPARING NO EFFORT TO LOCATE EGAN.

6. ROCAMORA HAD ALREADY INFORMED AMBASSADOR HILL THAT FULL IN-
VESTIGATION IS BEING MADE OF ABSENCE OF GUARDS FROM EGAN'S
HOUSE AT TIME HE WAS KIDNAPPED. IN TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH
LACABANNE, ROCAMORA ASKED FLATLY WHY GUARDS WERE NOT THERE.
LACABANNE'S REPLY WAS UNSATISFACTORY AND ROCAMORA INDICATED TO
AMBASSADOR THAT INVESTIGATION WOULD CONTINUE.

7. VIGNES ASKED LACABANNE IF HE PLANNED TO REMAIN IN CORDOBA
UNTIL MATTER OF KIDNAPPING CLEARED UP. LACABANNE REPLIED IN
AFFIRMATIVE, BUT SAID HE PLANNED TO RAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO,
A SMALL CITY IN CORDOBA PROVINCE, FOR A FEW HOURS TOMORROW ON
INSPECTION TOUR, BUT THAT HE WOULD BE BACK BY EARLY AFTERNOON.
THIS MAY HAVE BEEN FAST THINKING ON LACABANNE'S PART SINCE HE
HAD EARLIER INDICATED TO CONSUL GENERAL THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT
A DAUGHTER IN SAN FRANCISCO (SEE SITREP #14). INSPECTION TRIP
OR PERSONAL VISIT, HOWEVER, HE IS NOW COMMITTED TO BE BACK
ON JOB WITHIN A FEW HOURS.

8. AS OF TIME AMBASSADOR LEFT FOREIGN MINISTRY, THERE WAS NO
CONFIRMATION OF EARLIER UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT MONTONEROS WERE
SUBMITTING NEW NAMES TO REPLACE ORIGINAL FOUR.

9. MINISTER INDICATED HE WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR
THROUGHTOUT EVENING.

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10. MINISTER APPRECIATED RECEIVING CABLE FROM DR. KISSINGER.

HILL

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AR, US, MONTONERO, (EGAN, JOHN P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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